

THE YEAR IN WASHINGTON AFFAIRS GOVERNMENT

Frederick L. Siddons Confirmed as Justice of the District Supreme Court; Louis P. Brownlow Appointed Commissioner.

CHARITIES.

The scope of Washington's charities has, during the past year, greatly widened. The war abroad has necessitated the issuance of all sorts of appeals on behalf of the sufferers in many lands, and these have been met. Chief among these have been the calls from the Red Cross and the claims for Washington's consideration on behalf of the Belgium Relief Committee. These have been working on regular schedules, gathering money, clothes, provisions and surgical supplies for the warring nations, while a great number of entertainments, some pretentious and others small, have been held at intervals to make possible the relief of the sick, wounded and fatherless.

In addition to all this Washington home charities have not been neglected. The long roll of acts for the needy begins with the annual New Year dinner served by the Gospel Mission January 1, 1915, and a linen shower shortly following. Next came the big annual charity ball, the Willard Hotel, for the benefit of the Children's Hospital January 4. Early in January an industrial plant was installed at the Gospel Mission through the generosity of its friends.

Work Obtained for Idle Men.

February 1 saw the annual benefit for St. Ann's orphan asylum, and also the Southern Relief fund. The Associated Charities announced that it had secured work for 123 men in January. February 17 marked the beginning of the year's work for the National Federation of Women's Clubs. The ninety-six contribution stations turned in thousands of dollars. Washington's birthday the Gospel Mission opened its new soup kitchen, and March 26 the Central Union Mission installed a new lighting system. Easter Monday saw the benefit ball for the Knights of Columbus for St. Ann's Asylum.

Thousands of dollars resulted from the sale of tags March 27 for the Day Nursery and Dispensary for White Children.

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ALONG THE RIVER.

Increased business over 1914 was done, as a general thing, by the steamboat lines operating on the Potomac river and Chesapeake bay to and from this city, and the outlook for the coming year is particularly bright. The breaking up of the big farms that for years lined the sides of the river and made the people who lived on them easy and comfortable, has been a constant factor in the business of the steamboats. Then, too, the growing population of the city and the need for food and other necessities has made the river a more important factor in the business of the city.

While no foreign imports were brought to this port by water in the past year, exports from Nova Scotia, the business of the port has been good. It is estimated that up to 100,000 tons of lumber were landed here from vessels, and in addition to this were several hundred tons of other goods. The steamships from North Carolina and Chesapeake bay ports and from Nova Scotia. In the same period about 12,000 tons of goods were shipped to the city and the local firms handled the bulk of the goods.

Red Cross Seals.

The "Penny-a-Day Club" for the benefit of the Friendship House babies was formed early in August. The first part of October saw the printing of 200,000 Red Cross seals to be sold during the Christmas season. The Washington Home for Foundlings was the celebration with appropriate exercises of the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of George Washington. This was October 16. November 1 the Santa Claus Guild inaugurated its 1915 campaign, some 200,000 seals were sold. The better chance for even better results. November 7 the sisterhood of the Eighty-Nine, a new organization, was organized. The Pierce Guild luncheon and November also witnessed a luncheon for the benefit of the Episcopal Home for Children and a harvest festival for the Methodist Home for the Aged.

Many organizations helped make Thanksgiving a feast to be remembered by the poor, the missions leading the way with their big dinners. The Washington Home for Foundlings was benefited to a tea in this month; the Day Nursery by a bazaar; and the American Association for the Blind by a bazaar. November 23 was the thirtieth anniversary of the Associated Charities, and on that day the District branch of the Needlework Guild began its annual distribution to the needy. The Pierce Guild luncheon came early in December, and after that the thousand and one Christmas plans of various organizations.

NEWCOMERS AMONG WASHINGTON CLERGYMEN AND SOME WHO DEPARTED FOR OTHER FIELDS.



REV. BEVERLY CARRADINE, New pastor of Gospel Tabernacle. REV. LEWIS E. PURDUM, New pastor of Ingram Congregational Church. REV. HOWARD L. STEWART, who recently came to pastorate of Second Baptist Church after successful work in Pennsylvania.

FATAL ACCIDENTS—VIOLENT DEATHS.

Dr. J. Ramsay Nevitt, District coroner, signed approximately 2,000 death certificates during the year. His work included the investigation of all homicides, suicides and accidental deaths, and in a number of instances supposed to be suicides and accidents. It was necessary to sign certificates in the cases of bodies of scores of infants found on the streets, vacant lots and in sewers, and in several such instances it was evident that murder had been committed, although in no case were the guilty persons apprehended.

One of the most difficult tasks the coroner had to perform was that of determining between accidental death and suicide, and in several instances it was necessary to refer the question to a jury. In instances in which the coroner was unable to determine the cause of death, he referred the case to a jury. In several instances the coroner recommended that an inspection of fixtures might put stop to such deaths, but no regulation covering the question has been adopted.

CHURCHES.

During the past year a large number of Washington pastors inaugurated a custom of setting aside a Sunday for the observance of their anniversaries of pastorate, a course which has become popular. In view of the fact that the year 1915 was the year of the Roman pontiff also honored a clergyman of this city, Mr. Bonaventure Cerretti, for some years pastor of the Italian church, St. John the Evangelist, who was born on January 1, 1845, and who was a native of Italy. He has become the first papal delegate to the city.

WEATHER.

Practically everything that happened during 1915 was blamed on the war in Europe. Shipwrecks, conflagrations, explosions, inflated fortunes, epidemics—somebody was always to be found to blame any or all of these on the European war. The year was responsible. This was January 7, and the following day the ice all went out of the Potomac by reason of the unseasonable temperature.

Then, on January 13, when the entire eastern coast, as well as this immediate vicinity, was scourged by a gale that reached a velocity of sixty miles an hour, the same cause was assigned. The deluge of rain that accompanied this storm and wrought havoc all over the country, was due to the war, likewise, according to the same authorities. That rain was so heavy that the Eastern branch overflowed until Bladensburg people had to get to work pumping the water out of their cellars, while train schedules on roads entering the capital were seriously disrupted.

Too Cloudy for Ground Hog.

The ground hog failed to see his shadow February 2 and believers in the animal as a weather prognosticator were much cheered; but a heavy fall of snow and a season of cold weather gave the war party another chance. February 22, and people talked about the "sure sign of spring." Then along came another snowstorm March 5, which turned the streets into a sea of white, and the war party was again victorious.

Hot Weather in June.

Memorial day brought the usual wet weather, the rainy spell continuing for several days. The weather bureau's forecasts were for "unseasonable temperatures" for several days. A disastrous hailstorm did heavy damage in nearby Maryland June 22. Beginning early in July, the entire country was swept by a hot wave that took a heavy toll of life in all of the larger cities, though few heat fatalities were recorded in Washington. Toward the end of July, however, a cool season began, general electrical storms over the country marking its advent, with a snowstorm on Lake Superior August 1. The weather bureau announced officially August 2 that the hot wave was broken. Thunderstorms, cool weather and more blame for the war in Europe followed. The big West Indian hurricane had its effect along the Gulf coast, wrought millions of dollars of damage at Galveston, Texas City and other Gulf points, and gave this vicinity a scare. Following this outbreak of the elements the weather turned cool again, Chicago reporting the coldest August in its history. The weather was so cold that the country was suffering in the most unbearable heat of the year. The first snow observed fell the afternoon of September 18, and the weather was compelled to close because pupils could not stand the high temperature. This cold spell did not disappear until September 18.

Raymond W. Putman Succeeds Maj. Sylvester; Danie J. Donovan Takes Dr. Tindal's Place as Secretary to District Heads.

MOTORING.

One of the many important decisions rendered during the year was one by the United States Supreme Court, when it upheld the Maryland automobile license law, compelling District motorists to display identification tags in that state. During the year a number of indictments were rendered and arrests made for violations of the law. The number of motor vehicles in the District was large. In nearly every instance, however, the police recovered the cars and restored them to owners. One of the most important problems receiving the attention of the District authorities was the subject of traffic. Parking spaces in the center of streets were established on Vermont avenue between H and I streets northwest, New York avenue between 13th and 14th streets, Pennsylvania avenue between 9th and 15th streets northwest and on F street between 15th and 16th streets northwest. In connection with the establishment of parking vehicles, merchants on New York and Pennsylvania avenues protested against a new ruling prohibiting vehicles from stopping at the curb in front of their places of business longer than to permit passengers to get in or out of vehicles. It was claimed that this would be a hardship on the merchants so affected.

The order was suspended the day after it went into effect and two weeks' grace was allowed. In the meantime the merchants were under no obligation to remove their vehicles. The order is rescinded it is possible the order will be appealed to. The installation of new traffic signals was a feature of the year. The crossing policemen were provided with whistles, one black for northbound and one red for southbound. Two whistles for east and west traffic. Several "go-go" semaphores were installed and are now being tested by the police department. The police proved satisfactory all of the crossings in the business center of the city will be provided with the equipment. Lines have been painted on several of the crossings, with a view to reducing the number of accidents caused by persons being struck by passing vehicles.

The Safety Association of this city has been active during the past year. The association issued a "safety booklet" and held a number of meetings. The association is now working on a plan to have a "safety week" during the year.

The National Automobile Club held a motor show at one of the local theaters and conducted a hill climb in the fall. The Washington Motor Cycle Club held a number of meetings during the year. W. F. Baker and R. A. O'Brien, two local boys, journeyed to San Francisco for a motor race.

The Retail Merchants' Association of this city held a number of meetings during the year. The association is now working on a plan to have a "retailers' week" during the year.

The Washington Automobile Club held a number of meetings during the year. The club is now working on a plan to have a "club week" during the year.

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LIBRARIES.

Libraries in Washington progressed steadily throughout the year, giving service to thousands of readers. Many notable additions were made to the collections of books, manuscripts and pictures, although the European war caused a decrease in certain concessions.

One of the ways in which the Public Library extended its service was by arranging with officials at the model building for collecting and distributing books by messenger. Cooperation between the library and the public schools continued, with additional facilities being rendered children who wished to go away on vacations during the summer. These books and girls were allowed to borrow several books at one time.

A class for the training of persons wishing to take up library work was established in October. Dr. George F. Bowerman, librarian, in his annual report stated that an increase of 23,264 books had been loaned for the year. The number of books mounted pictures had been circulated. He noted in his report a net growth of 11,500 books. The increase was due to the work of the institution. They found that in comparison with other libraries of its class the Perry-Herbert department of the library here is inadequate.

Among the additions to collections were a number of books in various Scandinavian tongues and a group of pamphlets on relief work in Belgium. An oil painting of the Grand Canyon of Colorado, painted by Lucien W. Powell, and loaned by Mrs. John B. Henderson, was placed in the library.

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POLICE COURT.

More than 30,851 informations were filed in the Police Court during the past year. About 24,281 of these informations were filed in the District Court, and 6,570 in the United States branch.

The fines and forfeitures aggregated more than \$114,425, which were collected by William Adkins, the financial clerk. The principal offenses were drunkenness, disorderly conduct and violation of the police regulations in the District branch, while charges of assault and petit larceny were the principal informations filed in the United States branch.

James L. Pugh presided in the courts throughout the year. Since April 1, when Judge Pugh was appointed as the assistant United States Attorney, the bench in the District branch, while Judge Pugh has presided in the United States branch. The judges' chance courts on the 1st of April of each year.

There was one change in the court attaches during the year. C. A. Masten, who held the position of chief probation officer, resigned in October and his resignation took effect. The following month, George Heaney of New Jersey was appointed by the judges to fill the vacancy. Miss Estelle Foster is the assistant probation officer.